

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUXEMB 00183 111730Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04
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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5638
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LUXEMBOURG 0183

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EEC, PFOR, LU
SUBJECT: SOARES VISIT TO LUXEMBOURG

SUMMARY: PORTUGUESE PRIME MINISTER SOARES SPENT AFTERNOON
OF MARCH 10 AND MORNING OF MARCH 11 IN LUXEMBOURG ON VISIT
DEDICATED ENLISTING SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE EC ENTRY. SOARES
HAD AN HOUR TETE-ATETE MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN AND
ALSO MET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOL OFFICIALS. HE MADE COURTESY
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PAGE 02 LUXEMB 00183 111730Z

CALLS AT EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK AND EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE
AND WAS RECEIVED BRIEFLY BY THE GRAND DUKE. GOL OFFICIALS
INDICATED THAT SOARES LEFT LUXEMBOURG APPARENTLY SATISFIED
THAT PRIME MINISTER THORN, WHILE UNWILLING TO MINIMIZE PROBLEMS,
IS NONETHELESS BASICALLY SYMPATHETIC TO PORTUGUESE ENTRY.
END SUMMARY.

1. MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR MERTEMPHASIZED TWO POINTS IN GIVING US RUNDOWN ON SOARES VISIT. FIRST, SOARES OPPOSED IDEA RECENTLY FLOATED IN LE MONDE ARTICLE THAT ENTRY NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE "GLOBALIZED" SO THAT THE NINE WOULD NEGOTIATE WITH PORTUGAL, SPAIN AND GREECE AS A GROUP. SOARES REPORTEDLY TOTALLY REJECTED THIS APPROACH, WHICH HE REGARDS AS INSPIRED BY THE QUAI, AND REMAINS FIRMLY COMMITTED TO DIRECT EEC/PORTUGUESE NEGOTIATIONS. SECONDLY, MERTZ SAID SOARES REJECTED OUT OF HAND THE CONCEPT THAT PORTUGAL COULD BE INCLUDED TO A GREATER AND GREATER EXTENT OVER TIME IN THE NINE'S POLITICAL-COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS BEFORE BECOMING A MEMBER OF THE EEC. THE IDEA UNDERLYING THIS CONCEPT IS THAT PORTUGAL'S REASONS FOR WISHING TO ENTER THE COMMUNITY ARE LARGELY POLITICAL AND THEREFORE MIGHT BE SATISFIED THROUGH SOME FORM OF CLOSE POLITICAL COOPERATION IN LIEU OF FULL ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH THE EEC IN THE NEAR TERM. SOARES MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND THAT PORTUGAL WOULD INSIST UPON FULL EEC MEMBERSHIP AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.

2. SOARES WAS DESCRIBED AS REASONABLE IN RECOGNIZING THAT IMPORTANT ECONOMIC ISSUES WOULD HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BEFORE PORTUGAL COULD BECOME A MEMBER OF THE EEC. HE NONETHELESS REPORTEDLY PLANS TO MAKE HIS APPLICATION TO THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL BEFORE THE END OF MARCH. HIS HOPE APPARENTLY IS THAT SOME QUICK ACCEPTANCE IN PRINCIPLE OF PORTUGAL'S APPLICATION COULD BE FOLLOWED BY A LONG TRANSITION PERIOD DURING WHICH THE NECESSARY ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENTS WOULD BE MADE.

3. MERTZ DESCRIBED THORN'S RESPONSES TO SOARES AS SYMPATHETIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LUXEMB 00183 111730Z

BUT REALISTIC. HE SAID THORN DID NOT MINIMIZE THE ECONOMIC OR INSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS, BUT, HE NONETHELESS ASSURED SOARES THAT LUXEMBOURG IS FULLY AWARE OF THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF BRINGING PORTUGAL INTO THE EEC. ON THIS BASIS SOARES REPORTEDLY LEFT WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT LUXEMBOURG WOULD LEND ITS FULL SUPPORT TO EEC EFFORTS TO FIND REALISTIC AND POSITIVE SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS RAISED BY PORTUGAL'S ENTRY BID, WHICH MERTZ CONFIRMED IS THE GOL'S INTENTION. GINN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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